

really wanted to keep her baby but was lost in trying to figure out how.

Mr. Speaker, this is a recurring story in these pregnancy centers. There is a reason why they used to be called crisis pregnancy centers. These are women frequently in crisis who want to have that choice but don't see the way out of their circumstances.

Well, this counselor helped Laura navigate through the muddy waters of her life and envision a future with her child.

Soon, Laura's fear began to subside. A sonogram revealed a 7-week-old baby. In a tearful voice, Laura said: "That is my baby."

Since then, Laura has returned to the center weekly, participating in their prenatal education classes. She actually moved in with her mother so she could help her through her illness. Laura's hope is that her mom will be strong enough to hold the baby and spend her last days on Earth with her grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of hope that pregnancy centers give women and their families. And, often, two lives are saved in these pregnancy centers: the child's and the mother's.

An unplanned pregnancy can provide an opportunity and inspiration for a woman to get her life back on track; in these two cases, to actually start the family. A pregnancy can give a woman a reason to live, to take care of that child; a reason to go back to school to finish her education, as we heard about Miranda; a reason to reconcile with her family.

As a father of five, and everyone who has been a parent knows this: we know how parenthood truly fundamentally transforms a person well before the child is born.

From the time you know that you are going to have a new baby in the family, as well as every moment afterward, life is precious, life is priceless. Pregnancy centers support women during every step of that journey of providing a new life, a gift from God.

Mr. Speaker, next week, the Court will hear a case that perhaps threatens the very existence of crisis pregnancy centers and pro-life pregnancy centers in the United States. I hope that those nine Justices have the wisdom to see that, in America, that a jurisdiction—whether it is California or Baltimore, Montgomery County, or Austin, Texas, or any jurisdiction—that has tried to compel speech in these pregnancy centers is violating our constitutional rights and, worse than that, is really affecting valuable resources in our community, the most valuable resource a woman with a crisis pregnancy can have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN MARCY KAPTUR, THE LONGEST SERVING WOMAN IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, as this month is Women's History Month, it is my honor to rise today to recognize my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), as she becomes the longest serving woman in the history of the United States House of Representatives.

On March 18, 2018, Congresswoman KAPTUR will have served in the House for 35 years, or a total of 12,858 days.

While Congresswoman KAPTUR earns a notable place in American history for her length of service, her true accomplishment is the profound impact that she has had on this Nation through her legislative work, her leadership, her representation of the northern Ohio district, and her steadfast commitment to addressing critically important issues.

I think about Congresswoman KAPTUR every evening that I am in Washington, D.C., because when I leave the Capitol, I drive past the marvelous beautiful World War II national memorial, which would not exist but for the tireless work of Congresswoman KAPTUR.

After being approached by a constituent, Congresswoman KAPTUR first proposed legislation in 1987. She began a yearlong effort to have that legislation enacted into law, and turned the World War II monument into a reality.

Congresswoman KAPTUR's commitment to that project symbolizes what her colleagues know about her. MARCY KAPTUR is one of the hardest working Members of the United States Congress, and she is one of the most dedicated advocates for the people and the values that she represents.

Congresswoman KAPTUR is a community organizer and a serious public policymaker. She serves on the House Appropriations Committee, where she is an incredibly powerful voice for appropriate spending levels for programs and projects important to working families across the country.

She serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, where she has been tremendously impactful on promoting U.S. energy independence and the protection of the natural resources.

Congresswoman KAPTUR previously served on the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, which is now known as the Committee on Financial Services.

□ 1915

As the current ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, I

am grateful that Congresswoman KAPTUR has not lost interest in financial issues. In fact, she has remained extremely engaged on issues pertaining to Wall Street. She has been a leader in responding to issues that arose or were painfully identified during the financial crisis.

Congresswoman KAPTUR and I regularly speak about financial services matters. She shares articles and materials with me about key individuals on Wall Street. She finds and shares information with me on individuals' and firms' involvement in creating financial products or engaging in activities that might be harmful to consumers.

I am thankful to have the benefit of her thoughts on these matters. Congresswoman KAPTUR has the courage of her convictions even in the face of fierce opposition. Since the 1990s, the Congresswoman has been a proponent for the reestablishment of the Glass-Steagall barriers between investment banking and traditional depository banks. Although her legislation on this matter has been considered controversial, Congresswoman KAPTUR has stood by her convictions out of a sincere desire for protecting working families and Main Street over the interests of Wall Street.

Congresswoman KAPTUR supports policies that are good for her district without hesitation. For instance, she fought tirelessly to combat threats to Lake Erie. Congresswoman KAPTUR is a strong advocate in so many areas like national security, energy independence, and support for the Armed Forces. Her attention to important issues, her dedication, her skills as a legislator, and her work ethic should serve as an example for all public servants. I am proud and honored to call MARCY KAPTUR not only my colleague, but my friend.

So I would like to say congratulations to Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR for taking her place in American history as the longest serving woman in the House. I would like to say to the Congresswoman that I am not so sure that I should have worked with others to sneak up on her tonight and make this a surprise, and I know that, in doing that, she has been sitting there thinking about working on and coming up with things that should be said about Wall Street. But tonight we are talking about MARCY KAPTUR, we are not talking about Wall Street. We will talk about that later on.

But let me just say that the gentlewoman has been a wonderful and extremely knowledgeable voice and someone who understands the history, not only of Wall Street, but many of the players who have played over the years who were responsible for some of the problems that caused us to have the recession that we got involved in in 2008.

So I thank the gentlewoman for her caring about Main Street, and I thank the gentlewoman for knowing and spending time on these financial issues

despite the fact she has so many other things on her plate. Again, I feel very honored to be her friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is not easy to fool MARCY KAPTUR, but we pulled it off. She thought we were going to talk about Wall Street? We are going to talk about Main Street. In that regard, I think it was appropriate for me to bring this.

MARCY, do you recognize this?

It was 30 some years ago that MARCY KAPTUR and I went to Japan, and she had a spark plug made in Toledo. This is an old one, so it is safe. She took it to Japan because it was impossible to export from the United States a spark plug to Japan. They excluded our products completely.

So MARCY and I went over; and everywhere she went, she had a spark plug. People thought it was because she is kind of a spark plug. But, instead, again, it was because of the exclusion of any product made in the U.S. going to Japan. They blocked it out while they had a completely open market. That began a struggle that went on and on and on. MARCY never gave up, and we still haven't given up. She was one of those among us, and we joined together to say that trade is vital, but it has to work both ways. I may give this to the gentlewoman afterwards.

I just say this with deep feeling because of her deep feeling. We spent days and days in Japan and came back and spent days and days, and we pleaded with administrations: let there be reciprocity when there wasn't.

So I am afraid MARCY has done so much that it is forgotten what she was doing some years ago. But she was a pioneer in saying that when it comes to trade, expand it, do so in a way that is reciprocal, and do so in a way that is fair that remembers Main Street.

Secondly, I want to talk about another activity I have been privileged to work on with MARCY KAPTUR. There has been reference to her heritage. Marcy never forgot her roots in Ohio, and she never forgot her family's roots overseas—never. Indeed, her deep feelings about democracy—it was in Ukraine that she and I worked on—really reflected the depth of her feeling about democracy and the United States of America. So together we put together the Ukrainian American Caucus, and she has been the spark plug in that caucus.

I think both activities reflect so much about MARCY KAPTUR, her intelligence, combined with her deep feeling. She has never forgotten where she came from, and she has taken that remembrance, that remembering, and essentially took it into action in this place.

So we will talk about Wall Street some other day. But we are here on behalf of so many to tell Congresswoman KAPTUR that her career has been so distinguished.

I have a special duty here. She and I are the two people remaining in the class that came in. I think there were 81 of us, and the gentlewoman has never, never failed with the same enthusiasm with which she came. What a tribute that is to the gentlewoman and her character.

I finish with this. MARCY remembered her roots, and also that meant deep feeling about family. Her love for her mother and her dedication to her well-being was something that I think pervaded her life, and it spilled over into all of ours.

So, I say to MARCY, with this spark plug and everything else, I am honored to come today speaking for myself and so many others: job well done, but you are still doing it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee, Representative MAXINE WATERS, for calling us together to honor someone whom I consider to be a great American.

I rise today to honor this great public servant, a trailblazer in this House, the longest serving female Member in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives, my great friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR.

Congresswoman KAPTUR is more than just a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. She is a mentor to many of us, including me.

The Congresswoman rose from a humble, hardworking family in Toledo to become a champion for jobs with justice, women in the workplace, children's healthcare, and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

She also is one of the most respected voices for human rights and freedom around the world, especially for Ukraine as it faces military aggression and constant threats from the Russian Federation.

Congresswoman KAPTUR also shares my absolute commitment to protecting wilderness areas, our national shorelines and forests, and standing strong against those special interests who would sacrifice clean air and safe water for short-term profit.

Finally, Congresswoman KAPTUR shares my lifelong interest in history and helping Americans understand that we all stand on the shoulders of the brave men and women who came before us. That is why she was one of the earliest advocates for the World War II Memorial, a long overdue tribute to the Greatest Generation who defended freedom at its moment of greatest peril and saved the world.

Congresswoman KAPTUR continues to stand tall for seniors, veterans, working families, and the core values of the people of Ohio. Her hard work is greatly respected on both sides of the aisle, and I am truly blessed to call her my good friend.

There is one story I would like to relate on a personal note, and we discussed it today at her reception earlier. During my college days, I was a full-time worker in this body. I was a member of the staff of the Office of the Doorkeeper. My door was the west door on the Republican side because Tip O'Neill did not want me to congregate with my dad who was a Member of this body. Our job was to memorize the picture book of every Member, especially the incoming freshmen. In the winter of 1982, I had to memorize her picture to know who she was to be able to identify her. Back in those days, life was simpler because we were the security for this floor. So that is how I first met MARCY KAPTUR. I will always call her my friend.

Congresswoman, congratulations on reaching this historic milestone in service to your constituents and our country. God bless you.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who is the dean of the Ohio delegation.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding.

First of all, I am glad that the gentlewoman isn't talking about Wall Street this evening. The gentlewoman always wants to talk about Wall Street, and I am glad we are talking about MARCY KAPTUR this evening because she is really special.

□ 1930

This, of course, is in recognition of a fellow Ohioan, MARCY KAPTUR, who will become the longest serving woman in the history of the United States House of Representatives. That is quite an accomplishment. She will be breaking the record currently held by Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers, a Republican from Massachusetts, who served from 1925 to 1960.

I think I speak for most Ohioans, regardless of party, when I say we are proud that MARCY has brought this prestigious milestone back home to Ohio.

MARCY has been a stalwart supporter of her constituents, fighting for jobs and fair trade agreements. That is why her constituents continue to elect her to represent them in this body every 2 years, even though we have been trying every 2 years to knock her off. We just haven't been able to do it, she is that good.

Like me, MARCY grew up in a working class family. She was the first member of her family to attend college, earning degrees from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan. Graduating from these two universities, one of which is not even recognized in some parts of Ohio, had to be a tremendous hurdle to overcome when first running to represent Ohioans. Yet MARCY continues to earn the trust of her constituents, and that says a lot about who MARCY KAPTUR is as a person.

As the son of a World War II veteran myself, I would submit that perhaps MARCY's most enduring accomplishment was her 17-year battle to get a World War II Memorial built on The National Mall.

I just wish that it had been completed in time for my father to have seen that. I know he would have been really excited about it. Unfortunately, he passed away in 1998, before that wonderful memorial was completed, but I know he is looking down and sees it. I really appreciate all the other World War II veterans that do get to see it.

Through a number of setbacks, MARCY KAPTUR never wavered in her support for that memorial. Every time I meet with a group of World War II veterans who have flown in on an honor flight—which was another Ohio creation, I might add—to visit the memorial, I am reminded of MARCY's dedication and determination to make that happen. We truly owe her a great deal of credit for the beautiful tribute to the Greatest Generation that the World War II Memorial has become. As dean of the Ohio Republican delegation, I would like to express how proud the Members in this Chamber are for this historic accomplishment.

Even though we do not agree on everything—or, I guess, even very much sometimes—and have been known to have a few disagreements here and there, I am proud that she is not only breaking the record for the longest serving woman in this body, but she is doing so as a Representative of our great State, the great State of Ohio.

We are really proud of MARCY. We are happy that she has accomplished this. We hope she will be around here for many years to come. I hope I am here, as well, to continue to serve with her. Obviously, all of our constituents get to make that decision every 2 years.

Congratulations, MARCY. I speak on behalf of all my colleagues within the Ohio delegation as well as on behalf of an awful lot of other Republicans in the House who respect you greatly.

Congratulations.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member WATERS for contriving this colloquy on Financial Services.

It is my distinct honor to join my colleagues in celebrating this milestone in recognizing Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR's remarkable record of service to her constituents, her country, and to every woman in every corner of this country. I would add, every man and every child.

On the long, dark road to equality, role models are the street lamps that light the path forward. For the last 35 years, MARCY KAPTUR has been a role model and a source of light for millions of young women and young men. In other words, even after 35 years in this

body, she is still woke, just like the ranking member.

Ms. KAPTUR has championed progress on several important issues: protecting our water and our air from pollution, protecting consumers from predatory financial institutions, honoring the incredible sacrifice of our veterans—we have heard at length her work behind the World War II Memorial—and supporting working families so they have a fair shot in this economy.

But it is very much possible, and I would say very much probable, that her greatest accomplishment has not yet been realized. I am confident this Chamber will someday be filled with women—someday soon—who are inspired to run for Congress by the longest serving woman in history.

MARCY has taught me the value and the way to fight for the little guy. I remember this one moment on a Sunday evening when I was catching a few hours of a television show. I have very little time to watch TV, but I had a moment to watch the John Oliver show. I don't even think MARCY knew that she was the subject of that evening's broadcast. I will just briefly say that it was about John Oliver totally disgusted by the way little poultry farmers had been put at a disadvantage by the way we had rigged the rules here in Washington.

MARCY was the hero of the show when they showed her standing at a podium much like this in the Appropriations Committee room trying to unrig the law so it was not so unfair to these poultry farmers. I remember her so passionately standing there saying: All these people want to do is earn an honest living.

I felt that deep in my gut. Here was a Congresswoman standing up for the little guy against the big corporations.

John Oliver whipped the national audience into such a fervor, they were so angry when they saw this happen, and here was MARCY standing up for them. He then accused all the people who rigged the rules, who were defending the rigged rules, of having—I can't even speak about what he said on the floor of the House. I urge you to go see it for yourself. I think you will be quite entertained.

I was so excited, the next morning, on Monday, I saw MARCY on the floor and I said: MARCY, you were great on this show.

She said: What happened?

Then I explained to her. I said: You need to put this on your Facebook page. You are going to get hundreds of thousands of new followers. You need to put this on your website.

But her first concern was this. She said: Oh, I heard the John Oliver show uses bad language.

That typifies MARCY KAPTUR: decent, collegial.

MARCY has taught me many important lessons about the value of this institution. I know she loves the Congress. I know she loves this House of Representatives and wants to uphold

the mores, uphold the norms, norms that are so important in a democracy: it is important to be civil; it is important to speak in ways that are respectful.

MARCY serves as that example to me. It is not just the surface niceties, but the deep values of standing up for the little guy against the big corporations and defending the American Dream for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I thank MARCY for her service, and I look forward to serving with her many more years.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, Congressman WATERS, for pulling this little surprise together.

I thank MARCY KAPTUR. It is so great to be able to stand on the floor of the House and laud one of our great, great Members on her great achievement of serving here for 36 years in the House of Representatives. She continues every day to bring her intelligence and persistence to issues from labor and working people to Ukraine.

Her accomplishments are enormous. She was the first in her family to graduate from high school. She earned a BA and an MA, served in the White House, and now is the longest serving woman in Congress.

MARCY has never forgotten her blue-collar roots. She knows the importance of unions in providing job security and good wages. She has focused on making sure that workers get their earned pension benefits. This is a big issue right now that she is leading the charge on.

I feel, and have felt from the beginning, a special affinity, being a midwesterner and coming to this Congress with these Midwestern values: nothing fancy; it is just about working people who want a good life and deserve to get it.

MARCY can match anybody with her understanding in the details of pension policy. She always stays focused on the fundamental goal of pensions, which is simply making sure that, after a life of hard work, women and men can retire with dignity and security, something that I am afraid is in too short supply today. MARCY is continuing to lead that battle.

MARCY has been an expert on trade policy. I learned that early on in my tenure here in the House. On the 10th anniversary of NAFTA, MARCY, with the help of the Teamsters union, organized a visit and took a group of us first to the border city of El Paso, Texas, to look at and talk to people who had lost their jobs and had moved across the border.

We then crossed the border to Ciudad Juarez, where we actually saw people living in the packing crates of the products they were working to manufacture at the maquiladoras.

So, on both sides of the border, we saw the pain that was caused.

On that trip, we went to Mexico City, talked to leaders, talked to union leaders and political leaders, government leaders. We also went to the city of Puebla and talked to people there. It was a really comprehensive trip that gave us a sense of what happens to people when they are not being considered when policies are being made.

She continues today, as we renegotiate the NAFTA agreement and the administration works on that, to have input on what a really fair trade deal looks like—not just free trade, but fair trade—where it is not just the big corporations, but it is the workers in all the countries, in the United States of America and the workers in countries that we have trade agreements with, and that all the workers get a fair deal.

MARCY fights for people who played by the rules, faithfully going to work every day and making their pension contributions. They are counting on her and us to fight for them and to fight for a middle class in this country to help people who are poor get to the middle class and stay there. Those people—our people—could not have a better champion in this United States House of Representatives, in this Congress, than MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio.

I love you, MARCY.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, it is a personal thrill for me to participate in this special hour. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for doing a very good job of surprising our guest of honor this evening. She did it very well because she did it on policy.

She got Marcy to come here on a night when she should be celebrating, but she didn't hesitate to come down here to talk about what is wrong with Wall Street, which shows you how committed MARCY KAPTUR is.

□ 1945

When I think of MARCY KAPTUR, I think of a string of pearls. She is always providing pearls of wisdom to all of us. We have heard from many Members who have spoken about the fact that she has mentored them. I know when I was a young Member here—young only in time served—that it was MARCY who came up to me a number of times to show support and to provide me guidance.

She also has a very elegant way, a very simple and elegant way that she comports herself. When she talks about issues, she talks with great passion, but with great dignity—again, a reflection of a string of pearls.

She has never forgotten her roots. She has never forgotten her constituents. Now, her blood may be red, but there is a lot of blue running through them because she has always been there for the blue-collar worker. And she oftentimes in caucus is the conscience for all of us because she reminds us about the working class: What are we doing for the working class, lower middle class Americans?

Her commitment to economic justice cannot be lost on any of us because that has been one of the main principles that has really directed her work here and has been a moral compass for her.

So when the financial meltdown happened, MARCY had such a passion for wanting to right this terrible wrong, and she was no longer serving on the Financial Services Committee, but she had a thirst to learn everything she possibly could about what was necessary to reform the system. And I remember her coming to a briefing that I had with some experts, and then she invited me to a briefing that she had with some experts because all she wanted to do was get to the truth of what we needed to do.

She has conviction that she, I think, reflected in all she did through that financial meltdown because she was going to stop at nothing less than wholesale changes to fix the system, because, as many of us felt: never, ever again.

So as I think about the fact that we are celebrating the longest serving woman in the history of the United States House of Representatives, I feel so privileged to say that I know you; that I have served with you. There is no one who is more ethical in this building than you; there is no one more compassionate in this building than you; and there is no one more committed to economic justice in this building.

There has never been, nor do I think will there ever be, anyone who cares about Ohio like MARCY KAPTUR.

MARCY, thank you for being a beacon for all of us to follow. I truly love you, respect you, honor you; and I am truly pleased that we are celebrating a wonderful career here tonight that is only going to continue. But I think we all feel pretty special being part of this celebration.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for organizing the "What is Wrong with Wall Street" here tonight so that we could have the opportunity to hail one of our true champions and heroes this evening.

I just, first of all, want to associate myself with all of the comments that have already been made. When you have served for 36 years, we could wax on forever about your distinguished career of public service, so I won't do that.

I just want to focus on one thing that you have done that has really touched me in a very profound way, and that is, as a valued friend and colleague and mentor, your passion for the Great Lakes. From your seat on the Appropriations Committee, and now the co-chair of the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force, you have never ever, MARCY, missed a beat when it came to the Great Lakes. And I am sure that

there were times when you have felt like you were a lonely voice out there crying in the wilderness.

There is an old African proverb that says: Water has no enemies. So you would think, given that, that there would be just this plethora of funding and strategies, but there has not been. We have seen the crisis in lead in drinking water, bathing; sportsmen depend on water; agriculture depends on water; and truly, we need a water policy and a policy around the Great Lakes that makes sense whenever we do an infrastructure bill.

Now, for every one of those 18,000-plus days of service in the House, you have been a steward and a champion for protecting not only this environmental treasure, but MARCY also recognizes how much this resource provides for our regional and national economy.

If the Great Lakes region, the U.S. and Canadian provinces, were a separate country, it would have a gross domestic product of \$6 trillion, making it the third largest economy in the world. That growth and development would not be possible without leaders with vision and passion like you, MARCY, and so I want to thank you.

I agree with the gentleman who has said that your greatest accomplishments have not even occurred yet, as it pertains to developing the potential for these water resources in the Great Lakes.

I want to thank you for your legacy of working to stop the invasive Asian carp; fighting for safe and clean drinking water; making sure that the Great Lakes get the needed support from the Army Corps of Engineers for their funding, for dredging, and to maintain the critical infrastructure to support commerce; for fighting against efforts to roll back the Clean Water Act; and, certainly, for your vigorous opposition to efforts to kill the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Thank you, MARCY, for your leadership, and I love you dearly.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding.

MARCY, it is an honor to be on the floor this evening. We have joined together many times to share a message for the American public about the fight for what is right. No one leads that fight better than you. We have assembled here to celebrate the extraordinary career of our great colleague and friend from Ohio, my friend from Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR.

MARCY is a towering giant in the history of Congress. Her legislative achievements are too numerous to count. Her work led the way in the creation of the moving and so powerful World War II Memorial on the National Mall. What great respect for our veterans. And that is who you are, a respectful individual.

MARCY was one of the first Members of Congress to raise the alarm for

America's workers and industries facing unfair competition from trade policies around the world.

She has been a champion of America's farmers, fighting tirelessly to protect the rights of poultry growers and restore some balance to our Nation's increasing consolidated meat industry.

She continues to be a champion and a visionary in the fight to bring down skyrocketing prescription drug costs; to restore stability and good sense to our financial system; and to save the Great Lakes and the millions who rely on their resources from the harmful algal blooms—blooms that threaten to poison their rich waters.

There is no Member in this or any Congress who is more committed to serving the needs of her constituents and her district. While she has proven to be truly formidable to her opponents, MARCY is as kind as she is fierce.

In just a few days, this Sunday, March 18, MARCY will become the longest serving woman in the history of the United States House of Representatives. What a proud achievement. What a proud moment. What a great moment in history to witness and share: 35 years, 2 months and 14 days, but who is counting?

Those numbers are the official numbers that surpass the record set by former Massachusetts Representative Edith Nourse Rogers. Her enduring service has met more than three decades whereby girls have grown up in Ohio and all across America seeing that they, too, could serve and lead in the United States Congress, an impressive example that my friend, MARCY KAPTUR, continues to set.

I am more than pleased and more than a little relieved to say that MARCY is as passionate and driven as the day we met nearly a decade ago.

As the longest serving woman remaining in either Chamber, God willing, in a few years, MARCY will become the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress. It is my great hope that I will have the privilege to witness that historic moment, just as I am humbled to share in this one.

I want to thank MARCY KAPTUR for years of our friendship, our collaboration, our conversations, our coaching—her coaching, I should say—on the floor between votes and in Special Orders here on the floor after session, and for always upholding the values we share in service of the American people.

Speaking of values, we cherish the bond that we both hold with a common Polish heritage, something that I know causes her heart to pound nobly and boldly and proudly.

MARCY, you are a unique individual, a one-of-a-kind human being. You are a living legend, a leader with a steel backbone, and a treasure of this Congress and our great Nation.

We say thank you for your passion. We say thank you for your intellect. We say thank you for your integrity, and we say thank you for leading in

the walk for justice, social and economic justice, so that all people can be touched by your soulfulness and your kind and loving being.

God Bless you. Congratulations.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Representative LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and greatly appreciate a moment to speak.

I guess to borrow a bit from Shakespeare's account of what Marc Antony said: I come not to bury MARCY KAPTUR, but to praise her.

I got to know MARCY back during the economic disaster where investment banks brought us to the brink of ruin. And though we come from different backgrounds and we have different ideas at times about the best way to go forward, I always know that MARCY KAPTUR will be honest with me, that she cares deeply about the country, and that is her driving concern. It is actually easy to talk to people in this body—even across the aisle—when their driving concern is in the best interest of the country.

We shared a passion back after the problems in late 2008, in that I saw someone who was ethical and actually righteous who wanted to see that those who caused the problem that brought us to the brink of ruin were not rewarded, and that also we didn't end up punishing those who had no fault.

I am still concerned that she and I were not able to see that the problems were not rewarded and the innocent were not punished. I am not real proud of how our parties together responded to that crisis, but through all of that, and in the years intervening since, actually 10 years—it was back in 2008—I have come to build my respect for MARCY KAPTUR and know that this is somebody—agree or disagree, and we often disagree—but she is going to be honest, and that she has that passion in her heart to do what is best for the country.

□ 2000

There are people who have attributed the comment to different people over the years. My late mother said that our pastor back in 1951, before I was ever around, used it about a married couple, and he said: If two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.

So here on the floor, it is important that we hear from each other and we get different viewpoints in arriving at what is best for the country. But one thing I have grown to understand and know is that when I talk to MARCY KAPTUR, it is somebody who I know will be straightforward, agree or disagree, will be honest, and will be honorable; and that is not a bad way to approach things.

If we had more people with whom we could have those kind of discussions, there would probably be a lot fewer ulcers amongst our colleagues on this

floor and the country would be far the better off for it.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend, Congresswoman WATERS, for sharing this opportunity. I didn't realize that my friend, MARCY KAPTUR, was going to set a new record. All I knew is I didn't really care about the gender, but I care greatly about the person and how she has enriched this body by being here.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members will have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMUCKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, prior to wrapping up this session of friends who care so much about MARCY KAPTUR, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) not to talk about Wall Street.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I must say, I was not expecting what just happened. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California, my beloved friend of almost over three decades—in having the deep respect I have for her in her own life before she came to Congress and now as the ranking member on the Financial Services Committee; a very difficult position to hold—for taking this opportunity so late in the evening to commemorate my tenure here in our magnificent U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every single Member who has come down.

Obviously this is Women's History Month, and we had this announcement today, and I happened to be the victim of it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District for believing in me throughout my political career, for teaching me, for helping me to learn more and to understand the travails and the possibilities that were in their minds and hearts. I thank them so very much for that.

As with anyone, we all have our faults and human limitations, but, to the best of our ability, we have tried to uphold the Constitution and to help the American people.

I think back to my very first term in Congress, beginning in 1983. There was a great Congressman from Florida, Claude Pepper. I can still see him down in the well. Probably the most important vote I cast in my first few months in Congress was the refinancing of Social Security. What a great leader he was. Probably not originally from the liberal wing of our party, yet liberals and conservatives came together to do what was right in resecuring Social Security for the next generation.

Congressman LEVIN came to the floor with a spark plug. Our fight has always been to define where our jobs went, and we began to track places where we saw production move beyond our ability to restrain. Places such as I represent became hollowed out in many corners of our community. Since the early 1980s until today, this country has not been able to balance its trade accounts or to write trade agreements that were truly fair, as Congressman LEVIN has referenced. So we hemorrhage at the rate of over half a trillion dollars a year, almost \$600 billion annually, because we can't get other markets open, and they take it out of the hides of our people and our communities here in this country.

So if we go back to the 1980s. If you really look at when the numbers began to change, it is not hard to understand why the American people are unsettled and frustrated because of what has happened with the economy.

As I said in remarks earlier today, I was taught by a very great professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin many years ago that economics is not destiny, but it is 85 percent of it. If you really think about that, what we have endured over the last period of my service, three decades—going on four decades almost, we have seen this transformation in production platforms.

Unfortunately, with NAFTA on this continent, as we struggle to find a solution to the immigration issue, the reciprocal of NAFTA in Mexico was the upending of millions of small farmers, millions and millions of people who lived at the poverty level, but they had some way to eke out a living. And when their corn market was destroyed after NAFTA's passage in 1993, it took about a decade; but every year, hundreds of thousands of people lost their livelihood. They were desperate, desperate people.

What are they going to do?

Our grandparents fled to this country from what was greater Poland at the turn of the 20th century because they couldn't feed themselves.

It is the same reason the Irish came, right?

We look at what happened in Mexico as the flip side of NAFTA. We have never been able to fix that as a continent.

Are our leaders that stupid that we really can't face the music and develop adjustment provisions, as Europe did when it brought in Spain and Portugal?

So we look back to the basis, the root of why things have happened and hurt the American people, and we can understand their frustration. So I think I have been a voice for that. It is a problem we haven't fixed yet, but it is one that we need to attend to very carefully, because the American people have paid the price of, really, policies that went awry.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WATERS for surprising me. She and I have fought so hard on pru-

dent lending, prudent banking, and we have served here long enough to see when it wasn't, and when greed took over a gambling mentality rather than a prudent banking mentality, what it did to this country and how hard it was to pick up the pieces.

African Americans lost half of their accumulated wealth after 2008, half, since the founding of the Republic. The pain in those communities is not over. Maybe somebody from Wall Street might tune us in and hear that, but I want to tell them that it isn't fixed yet.

What has happened in many places such as I represent, predatory lenders have moved in, auto title loan companies, scam artists, who are making terrible, terrible exploitative deals with these individuals who simply don't know what those agreements they are signing mean. That is wrong.

If we look at the Latino community, they lost one-third of their accumulated wealth in the financial crash of 2008. And then for those who were the remaining Caucasians and other parts of our population, they lost about one-fifth of their wealth. It was extraordinary loss of capital, of money, of property value that belonged to them.

So sometimes, though, we try, but we can't always fix what is wrong. As we look to the future, our primary responsibility here is to defend liberty, as Congressmen TAKANO and LEVIN and Congresswoman SPEIER and so many others who came down here this evening talked about.

I feel very privileged to work with my colleagues in defending liberty and making sure we have the strongest defense in the world, and try to help those countries that are now being invaded by the Russian Federation, whose citizens simply want to be free and to have a decent life.

Mr. Speaker, I note that one of our colleagues has come to the floor, and I don't want to deny him any ability to speak. Congressman SOTO and I have worked so much on issues of concern to Florida and Puerto Rico and, obviously, trying to fix the bad gerrymandering that happened around the country, so I want to acknowledge his presence here this evening.

I thank all of my beloved colleagues for this great honor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my family; my brother, Steven, who is doing extremely well after a very serious illness and coming back to us. It means so very much to me. I am hoping he is listening tonight. In memory of all of our family members and my godchildren, some of whom were here today, and all of the people who helped me along the way, there is just no way to properly thank them except to keep trying to do a very good job and to meet the unaddressed needs of this great, great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WATERS so very much for this great surprise and for being my friend.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, there are some wonderful

moments in this institution. There are times when we are not always pleased and we don't feel as if anything is getting done, but then there are times like these when we have the opportunity to pay tribute to and to recognize one of our Members who have made tremendous contributions, someone who loves this institution and has worked hard to ensure that we get the best out of it.

I am just pleased and proud that I have been a part of not only the recognition that we have done today, both in the reception that was held earlier for Congresswoman KAPTUR, and for being able to be on this floor this evening and spend this opportunity with my other colleagues who helped us to understand the vast knowledge and contributions that this Congresswoman has made to this institution and all of the advice and mentoring that she has done for so many.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this special occasion to commemorate our beloved colleague and next door neighbor, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR from the 9th District of Ohio.

March has been designated to commemorate Women's History Month and Congresswoman KAPTUR has indeed made history this month.

First elected to the 98th Congress in 1982, and reelected to the succeeding 17 Congresses, MARCY KAPTUR is now the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives, breaking the record previously set by Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts.

Congresswoman KAPTUR, a native Toledoan, lives in the same modest house where she grew up.

She is a Polish-American with humble, working class roots.

Her family operated a small grocery store and her mother later served on the original organizing committee of a trade union at the Champion Spark Plug factory in Toledo.

After graduating from St. Ursula Academy, she became the first member of her family to attend college, earning a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin (1968) and later a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan.

After working for 15 years as a city and regional planner, primarily in Toledo and Chicago, she accepted an appointment as a domestic policy advisor to President Jimmy Carter.

During his Administration, she helped maneuver 17 housing and neighborhood revitalization bills through Congress.

In 1981, while pursuing a doctorate in urban planning and development finance at MIT, she was recruited by the Lucas County Democratic Party to run for Congress against a first-term Republican.

Although she was outspent by a 3-to-1 margin, MARCY KAPTUR parlayed a strong economic message during the 1982 recession to stage a nationally-recognized upset.

In Washington, MARCY KAPTUR fought vigorously to win a seat on the House Appropriations Committee.

Today she is the ranking member on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, which is fitting given that the Ninth

District hugs the Lake Erie coastline from Cleveland to Toledo.

Congresswoman KAPTUR also is the first Democratic woman ever to serve on the powerful Defense Subcommittee.

There, she is a strong advocate for national security, energy independence and adequate support for the armed forces.

She is also a member of the Interior Subcommittee where she fights for clean water programs that protect our Great Lakes.

Earlier in her congressional career, she served on the Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee as well as the Banking Committee.

She served on the Budget Committee as recently as the 112th Congress.

She has received the Prisoner of War "Barbed Wire" Award for her commitment to veterans' affairs.

She has secured funding for a path-breaking study into the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorders and other mental health issues among our armed forces.

And she helped lead a community effort to save the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo when it was threatened by the base closure commission.

Congresswoman KAPTUR has always shown strong interest in America's standing in the world and its relations with other countries.

She currently serves on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and co-chairs the Congressional Hungarian Caucus and also the Ukraine Caucus.

A strong supporter of Middle East peace, she directed the first surplus farm commodities in 1999 to support the peace process in Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Congresswoman KAPTUR remains dedicated to the development of democratic institutions globally.

She has spearheaded private charitable efforts to alleviate suffering in nations such as Ukraine and Vietnam.

As leader on issues related to international trade and human and labor rights, MARCY KAPTUR has led the fight for fair trade laws, dating back to her opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In 1993, Congresswoman KAPTUR was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Toledo in recognition of her "effective representation of the community."

St. Ursula Academy named MARCY KAPTUR Alumna of the Year in 1995.

She is recipient of the Taubman College Distinguished Alumna award from the University of Michigan, making her the first woman so recognized and the first graduate of the Urban and Regional Planning Program to be so honored.

MARCY KAPTUR recently received the Director's Award from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University for her commitment to increased understanding and appreciation of the peoples and cultures of Eurasia, Russia and East Europe.

MARCY KAPTUR was named the National Mental Health Association's "Legislator of the Year" for her championing mental health and received the 2002 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

MARCY KAPTUR is also the author of a book, *Women in Congress: A Twentieth Century Odyssey* that was published by Congressional Quarterly in 1996.

Dedicated to the principle that fiscal responsibility begins in "one's own backyard," Con-

gresswoman KAPTUR has consistently returned money to the federal Treasury.

MARCY KAPTUR refuses to accept Congressional pay raises and donates them to offset the federal deficit and charitable causes in her home community.

MARCY KAPTUR leads the charge on urban agriculture in Congress, she introduced the Urban Agriculture Production Act of 2017, which will create help create jobs, healthier, local food options and opportunities for cities and towns to become part of the food production process.

With all of that said, Congresswoman KAPTUR's kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity precede her.

When Hurricane Harvey hit the 18th District, she promptly sent my staff a box of doughnuts, knowing they would need that extra push to get through the busy hours ahead.

Congresswoman KAPTUR goes above and beyond her job description as Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

MARCY KAPTUR worked closely with me to pass several Jackson Lee amendments to Energy and Water Appropriations spending bills to provide funding for flood mitigation studies in Houston and Harris County and was crucial in securing House passage of the supplemental appropriations providing disaster recovery relief for hurricane Harvey victims.

So on behalf of the residents of the 18th District of Texas, I say thank you Congresswoman KAPTUR for being there and standing strong with us in our time of need.

Her compassion shows through random acts of kindness and thoughtfulness ranging from holding the door open for a young staffer to calling to check on the status of the 18th District as she is concerned about the human consequences of extreme flooding—I imagine her background in urban planning plays a role in her attentiveness.

As the Ranking Member for the subcommittee with Jurisdiction over the Army Corps of Engineer, Congresswoman KAPTUR helped in the effort to secure funding allocated to study floods—a crucial program for Hurricane Harvey recovery and future preparedness.

Thank you for your leadership, Congresswoman KAPTUR.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend and colleague Representative MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio on becoming the longest-serving woman in the history of the House. On Sunday, March 18, she will surpass the late Representative Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, who held the previous record of thirty-five years, two months, and fourteen days. But more than her longevity, Representative KAPTUR has brought to the House her tireless work ethic, her intellect, and her devotion to serving the people of lakeshore Ohio.

A Toledo native and the first in her family to attend college, Representative KAPTUR began her public service career as a member of the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commission and later as a domestic policy advisor to President Jimmy Carter. When she defeated an incumbent Representative in a stunning upset election in 1982, Representative KAPTUR came to Congress and hit the ground running. She has been a leader in the fight for higher wages, workers' rights, and ensuring access to affordable health care. It was Representative KAP-

TUR who first proposed the idea in Congress of creating a National World War II Memorial, and she wrote the legislation that eventually authorized its construction on the National Mall. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Representative KAPTUR has been at the forefront of efforts to invest in both our national security and in domestic priorities that help working families access opportunities to achieve economic security and get ahead in Ohio and across America.

I have very great respect for Representative KAPTUR's intellect and her passion for working people and the pain she feels whenever they feel pain. No Member is more committed to drawing attention to and addressing the difficult challenges so many working people experience—not only in her native Ohio, but throughout the middle of our country.

I've been honored to serve alongside Representative KAPTUR, both on the Appropriations Committee and on the Floor of the House, for the past thirty-five years. I look forward to continue working closely with her as Democrats carry forward the fight for economic opportunity, equal justice, and stronger communities.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to congratulate my friend and colleague from the great State of Ohio, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR who on March 18th will become the longest serving woman U.S. Representative in U.S. history.

MARCY, for 35 years, has served this nation and the people of Ohio with distinction.

It is my honor to serve with someone that never backs down from a fight and leads on all the things that are important to Ohio and all Americans.

I applaud her for her commitment and dedication to revitalizing our cities, ensuring fair trade deals and good jobs for American workers, increased funding for defense and energy security, and protecting the Great Lakes.

She has accomplished and contributed so much yet never forgot where she came from or the people that have helped her to become.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, I thank her for her service and congratulations on this historic achievement.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is nice when we can talk across party lines about someone's excellent level of service. It has been an honor and privilege to serve with MARCY KAPTUR my 13 years here in Congress.

Unfortunately, I want to move from talking about someone with ethical, upright, and righteous scruples to talking about a former FBI Director.

□ 2015

I had concerns back when Robert Mueller was FBI Director. And some people have forgotten, but one of the things that he implemented as FBI Director that I have heard from FBI agents around the country caused a great deal of concern was what he